

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2009

The regular meeting of the Flat Rock City Council convened at the Municipal Building on the above date at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. PRESENT ON ROLL CALL: Mayor Jones, Pro-Tem Martin, Gagne, Painter, Wrobel, Dropiewski and Tefend.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

10-19-01 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve the regular minutes of October 5, 2009 as presented.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

John VanDyne, 29525 Tamarack, said he has been a resident for 35 years and has always stored a recreational vehicle at his home. He asked when the Recreational Vehicle Storage Ordinance went into effect and shouldn't he be grandfathered in. The City Attorney stated the current zoning ordinance went into effect in 1990 but has not been strictly enforced.

Mark LaRue, 26085 Gibraltar Road, asked if the proposed DDA Amendment was going to displace/relocate his family.

The City Attorney stated that provision is required in the notice. He said there may be commercial development on Telegraph Road in the future but there is nothing in the plan contemplating eminent domain.

Sarah Lee, 26863 Winslow, read a beautiful thank you letter to the Police and Fire Departments regarding the service she and her husband received when he was ill. She presented the Police Chief a check for \$5,000.00 to replace the K-9, Rocco, when he is retired from service. Chief Rossow accepted the check with heartfelt thanks.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

City Clerk announced that Absentee Ballots were available at the Clerk's Office for the November 3rd election. Councilman Painter asked the Clerk to explain the framed City flag. She said the silk screen flag was not colorful enough and since it had been paid for already she asked Mayor Jones if she could have it framed. It now hangs in the Council Chambers.

Fire Chief Vack announced this is Fire Prevention Week and there are activities going on in the schools and the community. He reminded everyone to change the batteries in their smoke alarms and replace the alarms if they are ten (10) years old or older.

DPS Director, Bruce Hammond, said the south half of Vreeland Road is paved and the contractor is working on the north half, the approaches and signals. He said the tennis court is under construction and should be completed in about 2 weeks and one hundred (100) trees are being planted in Huroc Park. Also, hazardous waste day is Saturday, October 24th at the ball field's parking lot from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm for all Wayne County.

Recreation Director, Joan Pawlukiewicz, announced an Ice Cream Social at the Community Center October 30th. The ice cream was donated by a Brownstown business that went out of business. The cost for the social is a canned good or nonperishable item and all proceeds go to the Helping Hands Food Bank.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Gagne stated at the last Financial Committee meeting it was the general consensus to stay status quo. Treasurer Lambrix said after discussion with Fifth/Third Bank they did some restructuring of fund that should save a few thousand dollars.

Councilman Dropiewski stated that Fire Chief Vack represents all Downriver Mutual Aid fire chiefs and thanked him for a job well done. He then read a statement regarding the 16 petitions filed against him by Gordon Chevalier, candidate for council, and Art Cohen who lost the primary election as a mayoral candidate. He asked them to stop the non-truths.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Jones passed out an Estimated Fund Balance sheet and discussed ending fund balance for 09/10 as compared to 08/09. He asked Council if they would pay for an appraisal of Ford Motor personal property. He said they appealed their taxes based on 40% including abated property. Mayor asked the Treasurer to get a cost figure for an appraisal for the next meeting.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item A - PUBLIC HEARING: Amendment to the Downtown Development District.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 8:11 p.m. for comments from Council and the audience.

Terry Croad, City Planner, gave a brief summary of the amendment. He said the plan updated the projects completed in the last 10 years and the projected projects for the next 10 years. He stated we are required to have the relocate plan in place.

Hearing no comments from the audience, Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 8:17 p.m.

Item B – 1st. Reading: Ordinance to amend the Downtown Development District.

10-21-02 Motion by Martin supported by Dropiewski to suspend the 1st reading. All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – Resolution e: Single Premise Special Assessment for Huron Woods 2000 Bond A & B.

Discussion. The city helped finance the Huron Woods Development. The developer has defaulted and the assessments can be placed on the 2009 winter tax statements. Mayor said he wants to start foreclosure and the city would own the property.

10-21-03 Motion by Jones supported by Gagne to direct the City Attorney to start foreclosure proceedings. All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item D – Proposed bargaining agreement between the City and DPS Union.

10-21-04 Motion by Painter supported by Wrobel to approve the agreement as presented. All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E – Proposed closure of portions of Seneca & Evergreen Streets.

Russell Pickell, Superintendent of Flat Rock Schools, was present and asked Council to consider closing portions of Seneca & Evergreen for safety of the students and a better flow between the two schools.

Members of Council discussed being able to get emergency vehicles to the school.

Michael Labadie of Professional Engineering Associates, Inc., presented his study of the proposed closure stating the City's reasons as follows:

1. Development of a safer pedestrian environment between the High School and the Elementary School in the immediate vicinity,
2. Development of a "campus" setting by improving the connection between the schools,
3. Better separation between parent pick up and drop off activities and school bus movements, and
4. A better overall plan for vehicular and pedestrian movements within the school area.

The study was done in August and Council felt it should have been done while school is in session to get a real traffic flow.

10-21-05 Motion by Tefend supported by Martin to deny approval of the closure of portions of Seneca and Evergreen streets.

Motion carried 5-2 with Mayor Jones and Councilman Gagne voting no.

Item F – TABLED ITEM: Invoice from Best Asphalt to ROW patch repair 27075 Huron River Drive.

10-21-06 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to remove item f from the table. All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10-21-07 Motion by Gagne supported by Dropiewski to approve payment of the invoice from Best Asphalt in the amount of \$4,500.00.

Motion carried 5-2 with Councilmen Painter and Wrobel voting no.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Item A – Recreational vehicle parking ordinance amendment or enforcement.

10-21-08 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to send the ordinance to the Planning Commission for approval.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Youth Center lease – Flat Rock Train Club, Inc.

Leon Simeck, President of the Train Club, was present and presented his case for wanting a 15-year lease. The City Attorney felt a 15-year lease would restrict the City's ability to manage and operate Huroc Park. He feels the hands of future City Councils would be tied. He suggested an 8-year lease with the term to expire December 31, 2018 and renewal to be effective only after 30 days after publication of a notice to the electors of the right to petition for a referendum on the amendment to the lease.

10-21-09 Motion by Painter supported by Tefend to extend the lease for a period of 8 years with term to expire December 31, 2018.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – Maintenance agreement/invoice for their Risograph machine at the Community Center.

Recreation Director stated the maintenance contract for the old Risograph is \$2,043.12 a year and rising and parts are getting hard to find for it. If she trades for a new one it would lock her into a 3 year contract or she could let the old sit until next year and try to get this machine on the photocopier plan with other machines in the City.

10-21-10 Motion by Jones supported by Dropiewski to ask for a one (1) year maintenance agreement.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item D – Payment of invoice from IDNetworks – annual service maintenance fee.

10-21-11 Motion by Painter supported by Martin to pay the invoice in the amount of \$3,495.00 for the Police Department.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E – Flat Rock Goodfellows’s request to hold their annual Goodfellows newspaper sale November 20th from 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.

10-21-12 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Painter to approve the request as presented.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item F – Request from City Clerk to set date/time for Halloween Trick or Treat.

10-21-13 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Gagne to set Halloween Trick or Treat for Saturday, October 31st from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the City of Flat Rock.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Letter from Flat Rock Garden Club to the Beautification Commission that the Garden Club is dissolving.

City Clerk to send a letter to the Club.

Item B – Thank you letter from Downriver Republican Grassroots Organization to Shannon & Jan at the Community Center.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

10-21-14 Motion by Painter supported by Martin to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC CITY CLERK

DATE: _____

approved

